

Organization

April 25, 1951

Mr. Heneman

Leon Crutcher

Psychological Strategy Board

As we agreed, I talked to Mr. Brophy yesterday about the Psychological Strategy Board. As far as he knows Mr. Webb has given no indication of having made up his mind among the different lines of advice he has been receiving. Neither is he aware of any plan to call the Board together in the near future and he assumes that the first meeting will not be called until after the director is named. He understands that Allan Dulles is again under consideration for the position of director.

Brophy still does not see the need for any definition or understanding of exactly what the Board will do, taking the position that the Board should do anything within its total field of interest that it wants to do. I tried to explain to him that while nobody could limit the authority of the Board or had any desire to do so, it would be very useful to have some agreed understanding as to the principal types of items to which the Board would in fact direct its interest. I pointed out to him that such an understanding was needed for several reasons: (a) so that some bounds would be fixed to the director's role, (b) so that we could determine what function Mr. Barrett's board is to perform, and (c) so that arrangements within the Department for backstopping Mr. Webb can be determined.

I realize that in trying to come to an understanding of this problem with Mr. Brophy I was under the handicap of his conception that A and P opposed the establishment of the Board and are trying to preclude it from having any effective function. I explained to him directly that while some of us had originally opposed creation of a board we, nonetheless, would like to make it as effective as possible and believe we can strengthen rather than weakening it by agreeing upon the types of problems which most urgently require its attention. Perhaps I made a little progress with him, but he still holds to his basic position that nothing need to be decided about the functions of the Board until the Board gets together and makes a full review of current objectives, programs and policies in the whole field.

With respect to the backstopping function he still believes that the necessity for participation in the whole job of backstopping by such units as S/P and the regional bureaus makes it impossible for P to perform the full function. Thinking that half a loaf was better

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than none I suggested to him that we might, if necessary, set up one man in Mr. Webb's office but leave the principal job in P. He agreed that this might be satisfactory and he further agrees that if a <sup>DEPUTY</sup> Under Secretary for Information should come out of the FIA proposals his doubts about putting the full backstopping job into the information area would then be relieved.

no

I have ~~no~~ suggestions for any further action A can take at this time. It seems to me we have done all we can until we have some positive reaction from Mr. Webb.